

PIPES &

Personalities

Breaking and Entering?

The *Wall Street Journal* on July 2 had an interesting item on pizza parlors with organs, specifically mentioning the three-manual Wurlitzer in the Roaring '20s Pizza restaurant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The organ was originally in Jersey City's Stanley Theatre. Stanley Warzala, veteran ATOS member, tells us an amusing anecdote which occurred when the organ was in the theatre.

"Some years ago, our New Jersey group was scheduled for a meeting there, Bill Floyd having made the arrangements. About 75 showed on a bitter, bitter cold morning, only to find the place closed and locked. Bill could not be reached, no one answered phone calls made to the theatre, and knocking or kicking on the doors hurt cold hands and feet. Along came a policeman and asked what the problem was. After telling him, he got out of his car, picked up a crowbar and attempted to pry open the door. Unfortunately, no one took a picture of this amazing scene! Dick Loderhose finally awakened the watchman, and by waving a greenback at him, which apparently was music to his eyes, he let us in for sounds which were music to our ears."

Marian Cook Honored By Thayer School of Engineering

Marian Miner Cook (Mrs. John Brown Cook), well known in theatre organ circles, was the recipient of The Robert Fletcher Award for 1982 from the Thayer School of Engineering of Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. She is the first woman to receive the award.

Mrs. Cook has had an active continuing interest in education, the social sciences, and the arts. In 1979, a gift was made to the Thayer School to honor the memory of her late hus-

band, John Brown Cook, Dartmouth '29, former president and chairman of the Board of Reliable Electric Company. The fund supports the Cook Engineering Design Center.

The Cook family has also funded the library for the Bradley Mathematics Center and, with colleagues at Reliable Electric, provided funds for the construction of the 360-seat John Brown Cook Auditorium in Dartmouth's Murdough Center linking and serving Thayer School of Engineering and the Tuck School of Business Administration.



Marian Miner Cook.

Mrs. Cook is a trustee of the Claremont McKenna College in California, a governor of the John Brown Cook Association for Freedom at the Claremont Colleges, a founding member of the John Brown Cook Foundation, a director of the American Institute of Nautical Archeology, a director of the California State University Foundation, and a member of the Diadames of the Child Care League, Inc. In addition, she is a Founding Member of the Music Center and the Museum of Art in Los Angeles and has provided endowment for construction of the LaBrea Story Theatre in the George C. Page Museum complex in Los Angeles.

Gaylord Carter Opens LATOS Concert Series

The opening concert in the first annual LATOS Concert Series on September 25, 1982, featuring Gaylord

Carter's "Sixty Years of Chasing," was considered the high spot of the LATOS year.

Presented in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, the five-manual Moller console slowly rose as Gaylord played the full version of his theme, "The Perfect Song," to the sound of thunderous applause. This was followed by a series of film clips from silents that he had accompanied throughout his career, including many famous chase scenes, the ever-popular *Phantom of the Opera* excerpts, and featuring rarely seen footage from D. W. Griffith's masterpiece, *Intolerance*. Gaylord then played three of his own compositions before the intermission.

The feature film, Harold Lloyd's *For Heaven's Sake*, which Gaylord played at its original showing in 1926 at Grauman's Million Dollar Theatre, was presented after intermission. The Pasadena audience seemed to enjoy the film as much as the original audience, judging by the laughter filling the theatre. The program closed with two encore selections, after which the audience rose in a cheering standing ovation.

Film Series in Carolina Theatre After Fire

To reopen the 54-year-old Carolina Theatre, Greensboro, North Carolina, following its restoration after a fire in July, 1981, the Piedmont Chapter and the Greensboro United Arts Council set up a series of well-known silent films, all accompanied by Lee Erwin on the 2/6 Robert-Morton.

Opening night was September 10, with Buster Keaton's *The General*.

Gaylord Carter at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

(Zimfoto)





View from the projection booth.



Upper lobby.



Organ chamber behind left arch. An empty room behind center arch may be used for expansion of the organ. Note unrestored area above right arch.

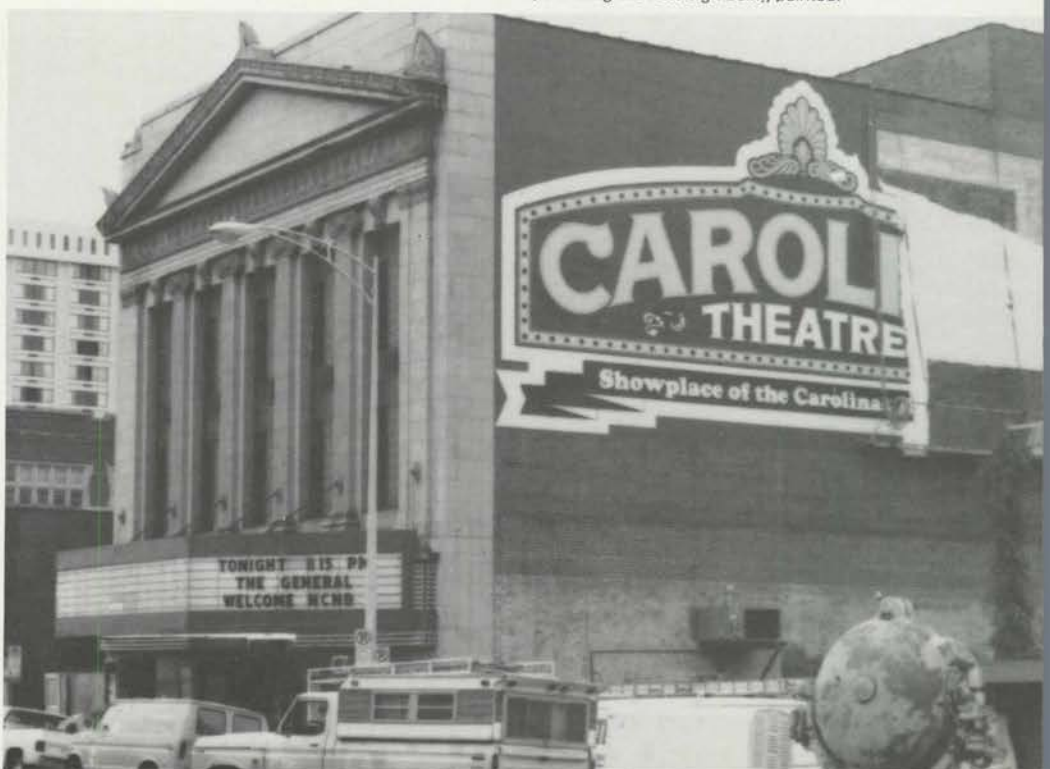


Organ console opened for repair before show.

Lee Erwin at the 2/6 Robert-Morton, Carolina Theatre, Greensboro, North Carolina.



Outside view of the Carolina Theatre, showing the new sign being painted.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

from your



South
Florida Chapter

Others in the series include Chaplin's *The Kid* on November 14, Harold Lloyd in *Safety Last* on December 26, Keaton's *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* on February 13, 1983, and Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* on April 17. A special extra show featuring Erwin accompanying *The Phantom of the Opera* took place on October 29.

The fire was confined to a stairwell and the upper lobby, but the entire theatre, the organ console, and the pipe chambers suffered smoke damage from the burning rubber-backed carpet. The fire doors closed, but not soon enough to keep out the smoke.

Both the theatre and the organ were insured. After settlement of claims was completed Piedmont Chapter members started the long clean-up and restoration project on the organ in January, 1982.

All the pipes were removed and washed in trays built for the purpose. The chambers were cleaned and the walls painted. The pipes were replaced after a new protective coating was applied. The blower was taken out, motor and bearings rebuilt, an air filter constructed for it, and then it

was reinstalled with shock mounts on a specially-built concrete platform to substantially reduce vibration. Other improvements and repairs were made to the organ as part of the restoration project.

Ashley Miller Visits San Diego ATOS Wurlitzer

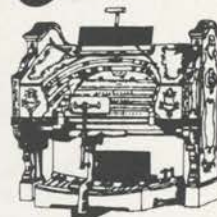
Upon his return from a concert/workshop tour of Australia, Ashley Miller visited the San Diego area for a week before going on to the East Coast. Members of the San Diego Chapter opened up the California Theatre and wheeled out their 3/14 Wurlitzer for an afternoon practice session. Ashley expressed pleasure over the stops provided on the new console, as well as the overall sound of the organ. As another feature of his visit, he conducted a workshop at the San Diego Piano Exchange, offering instruction in both classical and theatre registrations, following a long day which included an hour's concert. While staying with Mildred and Coulter Cunningham, Ashley spent several hours playing the Rodgers-Morton electronic/pipe organ they have installed in their home, and finding all kinds of new sounds on this one-of-a-kind instrument.

Acoustic Consultant Invents Mightiest Whistle

A high-power whistle, based in part on his studies of organ pipe acoustics, has been invented by R. J. Weisenberger, who writes "The Acoustical Consultant" column for this magazine.

A prototype of the whistle was built and it was tested at the Cincinnati International Airport on July 30 and 31. A sound level of 120 dBA was produced at a distance of 100 feet at a frequency of 440 Hz, with air at a pressure of 15 PSIG. Such a sound level is far in excess of that produced by any

Season's
Greetings



PUGET SOUND
CHAPTER

single-tone high pressure steam whistle.

Whistles of Weisenberger's design would be useful for disaster warning applications. A patent is pending on the design.

Dennis James Schedule A Busy One

In a recent letter Dennis James gave us a run-down on his playing schedule since early September and for the next several months, and it appears that he won't have much time to relax.

The American tour of *Napoleon* concluded on September 9 and 10 at Wolf Trap Farm Park near Washington, D.C. Performances were given in mid-October in Tokyo and a return engagement is scheduled in Toronto from December 26 through January 6 at the new Thompson concert hall, which is pipe organ-equipped.

James' thirteenth annual Indiana University silent film series opened on September 11 with a "History of Silent Film Comedy" show featuring Mack Sennett, Mabel Normand, Laurel & Hardy and Buster Keaton.

Ashley Miller tries out the San Diego Chapter Wurlitzer in the California Theatre. Pictured with him are (l to r): Lois Segur, ATOS President; Coulter Cunningham, former chairman of the San Diego Chapter; and Sandy Fleet, ATOS Director.



Inventor R. J. Weisenberger standing behind whistle prototype — before the test!



**NEW FIRST CLASS
AND AIRMAIL RATES
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Effective January 1, 1983, special mail rates for THEATRE ORGAN will be as follows:

FIRST CLASS —
U.S. and Canada\$12.00 per year

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NOTE: These are the correct rates. The rates shown on non-chapter member's statements are wrong because of a printing error.

The series continued on October 31 with Abel Gance's horror short *Au Secours*, coupled with the German expressionistic silent *Nosferatu - A Symphony of Terror*. He will finish the series on February 26 with *The Mark of Zorro*.

Dennis appeared as soloist with the Eastman-Dryden orchestra for the sixtieth anniversary celebrations at the Eastman Theatre in Rochester.

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The Eastman School of Music had a full motion picture music program and full deluxe presentations were run at the Eastman Theatre all through the twenties. Those shows were re-created on September 30 and October 1 with a program that included organ and symphony orchestra segments, and closed with Chaplin's *A Dog's Life* scored for organ and orchestra.

Dennis accompanied *Wings* at the Elco Theatre in Elkhart on October 7 and *The Eagle* at the Palace Theatre in Canton, Ohio, on October 8 and 9. He did two programs for EMCATOS on the Wurlitzer at Babson College in Wellesley on October 23 and 24. Then to Providence for *Phantom of the Opera* on October 29 (midnight), played on the newly-installed 5/21 Wurlitzer at the Ocean State Center for the Performing Arts. Back to Columbus for the Ohio Theatre's sixth annual Halloween show at midnight on October 30, and to Indiana University for the Halloween show there on October 31.

On November 19 James went to London to serve as a judge for the London Chapter's annual Young Organist Competition, and to the London Film Festival for the premieres of two new orchestra and organ scores for the silent films *Show People* and *Flesh & the Devil*, plus a showing of a recently-rediscovered Chaplin film, *How to Make a Movie*.

On December 17, 18 and 19 he will be performing with the Chicago Symphony the Handel Organ Concerto No. 13, "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale," plus providing the continuo organ part for the oratorio "Israel in Egypt." The program will be broadcast nationwide, so ATOS members will be able to hear it in their own communities — just check the Chicago Symphony broadcast schedule.

His 1983 schedule includes: January 23 - LATOS concert and film at Pasadena Civic Auditorium; January 29 - Concert and film at the California Theatre for the San Diego Chapter; February 26 - Indiana University silent film series; February 27 - Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, silent film *The General*; March 19 - Ohio Theatre 55th Anniversary program, silent film with full orchestra and organ.

Starting in late March Dennis will undertake a solo world concert tour. The exact dates are still being arranged, but programs are now slated

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ALL THE
STOPS!



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in New Zealand, Australia, Holland, England and Scotland. He plans to visit as many overseas theatre organ installations as possible and hopes to report to the ATOS on the status of a number of obscure ones.

In the middle of the tour he will return to Columbus for a screening of the French film classic *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. The original score calls for organ, orchestra, piano, four soloists and full choir. It will be performed at the Broad Street Methodist Church on May 22.

Dennis has acquired the rights and is now booking the film *Robin Hood* as performed at the ATOS convention in Detroit. The cost of production is now well within the scope of ATOS sponsorship, and four performances have been set for the coming season.

**Season's Greetings
from Detroit**



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